

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 201769

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PL, GW, US

SUBJECT: GERMAN REUNIFICATION

REF: (A) WARSAW 6600, (B) STATE 194452

1. WHILE WE APPRECIATE POLISH SENSITIVITY TOWARD THE
QUESTION OF GERMAN REUNIFICATION, WE SEE LITTLE POLITICAL
ADVANTAGE IN KEEPING A DIALOGUE ON THE SUBJECT ALIVE.
ACCORDINGLY WE BELIEVE IT BEST THAT AMBASSADOR NOT SEEK
OUT DOBROSIELSKI TO ADDRESS ISSUE OF GERMAN REUNIFICATION
SPECIFICALLY. IF ISSUE SHOULD ARISE ON OTHER OCCASION,
HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR MAY IN RESPONSE DRAW ON FOLLOWING
MEMORANDUM PREPARED JULY 31 FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST'S
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MEETING WITH POLISH AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI.

2. BEGIN TEXT: GERMAN REUNIFICATIO;

THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON GERMAN REUNIFICATION AT THE
TOWN MEETING IN BERLIN DOES NOT REPRESENT A NEW DEPARTURE
IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY BUT RATHER THE RESTATEMENT OF

A POSITION HELD BY SEVEN DIFFERENT ADMINISTRATIONS. ADMITTEDLY, THE U.S. POLICY ON REUNIFICATION HAD NOT RECENTLY BEEN ENUNCIATED AT SUCH A HIGH LEVEL, BUT IT HAS BEEN A CONSTANT FACTOR IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY SINCE THE

EARLY POST-WAR YEARS.

WE HAVE ALWAYS STRESSED THAT OUR SUPPORT WAS FOR PEACEFUL MEASURES LEADING TOWARD A DEMOCRATIC, UNIFIED GERMANY. DURING THE 1950'S AND 1960'S THE WEST PUT FORWARD SEVERAL REUNIFICATION PROPOSALS BASED ON FREE ELECTIONS IN EAST AND WEST GERMANY. WE AND THE OTHER WESTERN NATIONS PROVIDED FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUAL REUNIFICATION BY INSISTING ON INCLUSION OF THE CLAUSE ALLOWING FOR PEACEFUL CHANGE OF STATE BOUNDARIES IN THE 1975 HELSINKI FINAL ACT. SIMILARLY, THE 1971 QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON BERLIN PROVIDES FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF TIES BETWEEN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND BERLIN. WE HAVE ALSO SUPPORTED, IMPLICITLY OR EXPLICITLY, MEASURES TAKEN TO MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP IMPROVED TIES BETWEEN THE TWO GERMANY'S.

WHILE NO ONE FORESEES A REALISTIC POSSIBILITY FOR REUNIFICATION AT THE PRESENT TIME, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE GERMAN PEOPLE'S ASPIRATIONS TO NATIONAL UNITY ARE AS VALID AS THOSE OF OTHER NATIONAL GROUPS WHICH DESIRE TO ACHIEVE A NATIONAL IDENTITY CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLES

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OF PEACE AND SELF-DETERMINATION. END TEXT.

3. F.Y.I.: FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF QUESTION ASKED ON REUNIFICATION AT THE BERLIN TOWN MEETING ON JULY 15 AND THE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE.

BEGIN TEXT: QUESTION: MY NAME IS PIETRAT BENT. I AM A STUDENT HERE IN BERLIN. MY QUESTION, MR. PRESIDENT, IS AS FOLLOWS: WHAT DID YOU MEAN OR INTEND, MR. PRESIDENT, WHEN YOU SAID THAT THE GERMAN NATION HAD A CLAIM AND RIGHT FOR REUNIFICATION AND HOW CAN YOUR ADMINISTRATION REALLY AFFORD TO BE INTERESTED IN GERMAN REUNIFICATION?

THE PRESIDENT: THE CONSTANT COMMITMENT OF THE WESTERN ALLIES, EVER SINCE THE NATO ORGANIZATION WAS FORMED, EVER SINCE THE SECOND WORLD WAR WAS OVER, IS FOR THE REUNIFICATION OF GERMANY, BASED UPON THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE GERMAN PEOPLE YOURSELVES. AND THIS IS A COMMITMENT THAT I BELIEVE OUGHT TO BE MAINTAINED AND AN ULTIMATE HOPE THAT SHOULD BE CAREFULLY PRESERVED.

WE ARE NOT TRYING TO IMPOSE OUR WILL UPON THE GERMAN

PEOPLE. BUT WHEN THE GERMAN PEOPLE APPROACH THE TIME OF MAKING A DECISION FOR YOURSELVES THAT GERMANY SHOULD BE REUNITED AND BERLIN AGAIN BE THE CAPITAL OF UNIFIED GERMANY, WE WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME THAT TIME AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO IT WITH OUR PRAYERS AND OUR CONSTANT HOPE. END TEXT.

4. THE CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR THE PRESIDENT'S USE AT THE TOWN MEETING WAS AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT:
QUESTION: WHAT IS THE U.S. POSITION ON THE EVENTUAL REUNIFICATION OF GERMANY?

ANSWER: AS ONE OF THE VICTORIOUS POWERS RESPONSIBLE FOR GERMANY AS A WHOLE, THE UNITED STATES HAS ALWAYS FAVORED
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EVENTUAL REUNIFICATION OF THE GERMAN PEOPLE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. END TEXT.

5. THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT THE FRANKFURT CITY HALL ON JULY 15 CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: „SO WE PRAY FOR THE UNIFICATION OF GERMANY AS TH" EXPRESSION OF WILL FOR THE PEOPLE OF YOUR GREAT NATION." VANCE

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